

HSL-Streetscape



Swansea Castle

Engineer	Swansea City Council
Contractor	Alun Griffiths Contractors Ltd
Supplier	BBS Natural Stone
Distributor	Wolseley
Product	Welsh Pennant Paving

With all the redevelopment work being undertaken with the City of Swansea, the decision was made to upgrade the public realm area around the castle, to provide an area more conducive to rest and relaxation and to greatly improve a well known landmark within the City area. The Engineers and Designers were strongly in favour of using locally sourced materials to try to blend with the original use of Welsh Pennant stone used in the Castle construction. Having recently finished the first phase of the Swansea Boulevard project i.e. Tawe Bridges the obvious choice was to use the Welsh Pennant Flag paving quarried in Resolven and processed near Neath Abbey by Celtic Stone Ltd, they provide a sawn 6 sided flag with a flamed top finish to mimic the traditional Welsh riven paving used extensively by the Victorians.

The product not only met the requirements of the City & County of Swansea, in terms of physical and technical performance, but by being quarried and processed within 10 miles of Swansea centre, it also added a further environmental advantage.

The products were quickly approved and orders placed via Wolseley/Burdens, working closely with BBS Natural Stone, who were then able to offer the full material package, including silver grey granite kerbs and channels from their UK stock holding which was used for the feature banding, edge and step details, meant that the whole project proceeded at a far quicker rate than had been expected



The project consisted of various gauged paving at random lengths x 75mm thick with a flamed top finish of approx. 600m², + Silver Grey granite kerbs and channels. The original specification was to butt joint the paving with sanded joints, but due to the manufacturing tolerances of the natural stone this became difficult to lay, the decision was then taken to open the joints slightly and use a flow point type pointing material, although this may have detracted from the traditional laying style and appearance the finished paving now looks great, and will provide better long term performance and less future maintenance. The finished appearance blends really well with the existing castle stone and provides an excellent public realm area for the people of Swansea to soak up the South Wales sun shine.